



July 12, 2007

F.Y.I.

Volume 19, Issue 21

JMF Closure Update

The MDOC intends to move forward with closing the Southern Michigan Correctional Facility (JMF). The full closure is unlikely to be done before August 1 because the Department's transfer plan is still under review by the District Court. The 7 Block of the Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center (RGC) is scheduled to close the weekend of July 28, 2007.

The JMF prisoner population has decreased by about 630 inmates since the closing announcement was made. This has been through attrition and lateral transfers of non-special needs prisoners. Medical staff has assessed the medical needs of the remaining inmates to assure their appropriate placement and properly match their medical and custody needs. Here's where we are in the closure process:

1. The prisoner store will continue to operate until the facility closes, with a somewhat smaller selection.
2. By the weekend of July 14, the last of the pods in 4 Block will have closed. This will complete the closure of the entire cell block.

3. Michigan State Industries (MSI) will remain at JMF until 5 and 6 Block close.

4. JMF's school programs will continue until the facility closes.

5. Temporary air conditioning that is sufficient to keep the open housing units at a less than 90 heat index (HI) was installed for 5 and 6 block and will be operating by July 15. It will run on days when the HI (as measured in the interior of the cell blocks) approaches 90, in order to keep the HI below that level.

6. A "Cool Dome" has been installed in RGC and will also be operational by July 15. It will be a point of court-ordered refuge for certain designated prisoners when the interior of RGC's remaining cell block(s) approach a HI of 90.

Keep checking the **F.Y.I.** for additional updates on the progress of closing Southern Michigan Correctional Facility and 7 Block of the Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center.

Human Resources Consolidation News



As the August 26, 2007 date for the Human Resource Consolidation approaches, the Department has met with Civil Service Executive staff to discuss the effects this will have on current Corrections Human Resources staff. It was communicated by Civil Service that at this time there will be no immediate changes in staffing, processes, or work locations. The only change that will go into effect on August 26 will be the reporting relationship of the Human Resource staff. Certain Corrections staff will be converted to Civil Service Commission employees, but will remain as a dedicated group serving the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC). Unfortunately we do not have more detailed information to provide about the conversion at this time.

Both departments will work to ensure there is a smooth transition in the conversion as a result of the consolidation, and it is expected that the quality of service will continue throughout this transitional period. If future efficiencies are required, both departments will work together to minimize the effects on staff. Many details of the consolidation will continue to be worked out between departments; as issues are finalized, we will share them with you.

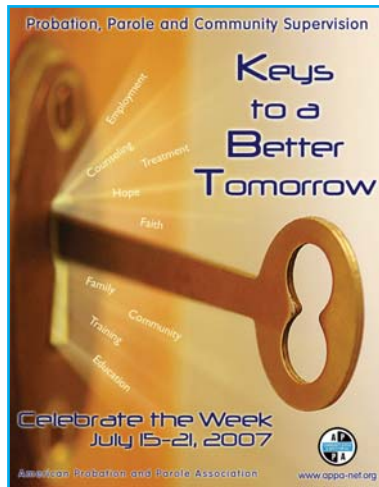
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Staff Week.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Mentoring Awareness.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Honor Guard.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Special Olympics.....</i>	<i>5</i>

Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Staff to be Recognized Nationwide

Next week (July 15-21) will be observed nationally as Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week.

For over 100 years, officers have been supervising offenders to make our communities a safer place to live. These unsung heroes dedicate their lives to serving crime victims and holding offenders accountable for the wrong they have committed to our families, friends and communities. It is through their commitment to public safety that our communities are a safer place for our families.



Since the days of John Augustus, the "Father of Probation" who started probation in 1841, the atmosphere in which these dedicated professionals work has become more violent. The rise in the number of offenders under community supervision, the impact of drugs, the availability and use of weapons and the increase of violent behavior contribute to the danger these officers face each day.

Corrections professionals who work in the community are to be commended for the bravery they show when making home visits to some of the nearly five million adults under community supervision in areas that most people would never enter. The work they do is many times unnoticed and least known about, yet it is one of the most important jobs in community safety.

We are proud to honor the Probation, Parole & Community Supervision employees who work to make our communities a safer place to live.

At the end of 2005 there were over 4.9 million adults and over 600,000 juveniles being supervised in our communities by these officers. They are responsible for over two-thirds of the nation's offenders under supervision or custody, yet they receive only one-third of the money allocated for custody and supervision of these offenders. The challenges they face are tremendous, yet they continue to make a difference.

They make a difference through monitoring and enforcing sanctions as well as providing treatment, developing partnerships with other agencies and community groups, and by assisting offenders in their efforts towards leading a law-abiding life.

They are professionals who constantly acquire knowledge of what motivates offenders and apply that knowledge in the most effective way possible. The work they do has become multifaceted. Their work goes well beyond supervision and surveillance of offenders, it has expanded to include working with victims in a much more involved capacity to ensure that restorative justice principles are addressed. All of this is done in an effort to ensure the highest level of public safety.

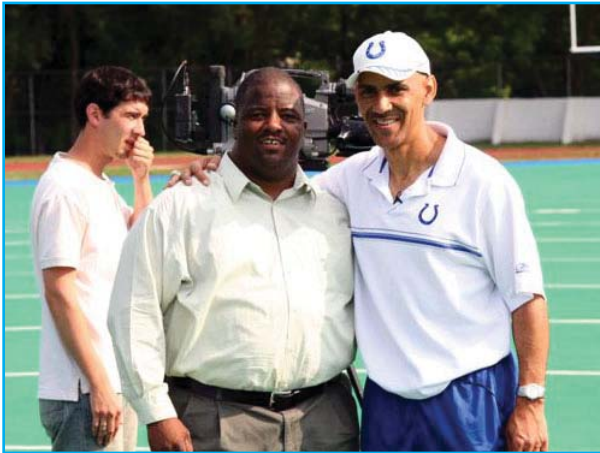
F.Y.I. July 12, 2007

??????????

*Planning anything to honor the Probation, Parole and Community Supervision staff at your site? Keep us in the loop! Please send information and pictures (with captions) to farmerlc@michigan.gov for inclusion in an upcoming **F.Y.I.***

??????????

MDOC Employee Spearheads Mentoring Awareness March



C/O Thomas K. Burke wears many hats. Not only is he the 2007 Corrections Officer of the Year for the Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center (RGC), he is the acting chaplain there and very active in the Jackson community. He has a special love for mentoring, and because of that organized the upcoming Mentoring Awareness March in Jackson.

Burke's call to mentoring came four years ago at a barbershop. It was there that he heard his barber speak harshly to a young man, telling him to get up and out into the parking lot to start his cleaning for community service.

When Burke asked his barber if picking up trash was teaching the young man anything about service to his community, Burke was invited to talk to him. Burke then told the young man he'd meet him the next day to take him to visit his community and do some real service.

The young man's mother agreed to allow Burke to work with her troubled son. A Jackson Police Department sergeant referred Burke to Florence Crittenton Services, an organization that works with teens who are pregnant, homeless or otherwise in crisis. The young man disappeared before Burke could get him enrolled in any of the programs there, but Burke's desire to mentor had already been solidified. He decided that mentoring through an organized program to help troubled youth was what he wanted to do, so he signed up to mentor a homeless teenage boy.

Burke eventually started his own mentoring program through the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) and Florence Crittenton, called "Stopping Time." He designed the program to recruit MDOC employees to mentor at-risk youth. His commitment led to a seat on the Florence Crittenton Board of Directors, where he serves as vice-president. At Florence Crittenton alone, less than 8% of the volunteer mentors over the past two years have been men.

At Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jackson County, twice as many boys are waiting to be matched with a positive role model and friend as girls, and these young men wait twice as long to be matched. These statistics are mirrored nationwide, which illustrates the need for increased awareness and involvement.

Burke is shown here with Tony Dungy, coach of the Indianapolis Colts football team. Dungy is a Jackson native and was in town at the Jackson High School Football Clinic. He agreed to film a public service announcement to draw more attention to mentoring and the Mentoring Awareness March.

Mentoring Awareness March Information

The Mentoring Awareness March will be hosted by the Mentoring Collaborative of Jackson County. It is scheduled for July 28 at 10 a.m. at Bucky Harris Park. The march will begin at 10:15 and proceed to Loomis Park, concluding with a picnic at 2 p.m. The day will feature celebrities, entertainment, games and information on mentoring and volunteering. Free bus service will be available. For more information, contact the Jackson Non-profit Support Center at (517) 796-4750.

Honor Guard Represents MDOC at National Memorial



(l.-r.): Todd Dunn (MBP and Corrections USA), Petra Lopez (RCF), Kirk Downs (MPF), Brent Mitchell (ECF), Christianna Borst (LCF), John Cordell (New Employee Training).

The Michigan Department of Corrections Honor Guard recently attended the Correctional Peace Officers' (CPOF) Memorial in Philadelphia, PA. The detail included Commander John Cordell and members Christianna Borst, Kirk Downs, Petra Lopez, and Brent Mitchell.

The memorial service was held to recognize 15 fallen officers. They included officers killed in the line of duty or in the military in 2006, and past line-of-duty deaths that had not been previously recognized. It was a very solemn tribute that honored the ultimate sacrifice made by these staff and the difficulties faced by those they left behind.

Seventeen honor guard units from throughout the United States attended the ceremony. All units stood in honor behind the families and dignitaries during the service, which was attended by more than 500 people. The experience of a national event was second-to-none for the MDOC detail. It provided a chance for Michigan to compare its honor

guard with other state honor guards, and provided national exposure that will benefit the unit in a variety of ways. They hope to make the trip an annual event.

The unit would like to recognize Todd Dunn and Corrections USA (CUSA) for their financial support. CUSA donated lodging, conference registration and meals to help offset the cost to members. Thanks also go out to Guy Vaive and Annie Rae Chevrolet, who donated the use of a 15-passenger van for travel to and from Philadelphia. If you are interested in supporting the honor guard presence at future events with a donation to the Honor Guard Fund, please contact Commander John Cordell at 517-636-6122 or cordelljc@michigan.gov.

Log On to the New MCA Web Site



The Michigan Corrections Association (MCA), the professional affiliate of the American Correctional Association (ACA), has just launched a new Web site. The site allows members and those interested in MCA greater connectivity with the Executive Board and other corrections organizations throughout Michigan and the nation. It also highlights upcoming events and provides information on how to join MCA and ACA. MCA and the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) have shared a great partnership over the years, and MCA looks forward to serving more members of the MDOC in years to come. Take a look at the new MCA at www.micorrections.org.

2007 Special Olympics Michigan Summer Games

About 3,000 Olympians and more than 1,500 coaches and volunteers were on the campus of Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant for the Special Olympics Michigan (SOMI) State Summer Games. The games are considered the premier competition of the year for the athletes, and many of our colleagues -- members of Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) -- are among the biggest supporters of Special Olympics. For more information (and more scenes from the games), log on to <http://www.somi.org>.



Michigan eLibrary: Your 'Anytime, Anywhere' Library

As you know, Executive Directive 2007-08 directed departments and agencies within the executive branch of state government to reduce by at least 15 percent their expenditures on subscriptions (including newspapers, magazines, newsletters and journals).

As State of Michigan departments and agencies seek ways to streamline functions and cut costs, the Department of History, Arts and Libraries and the Library of Michigan are glad to remind state employees that the Michigan eLibrary - MeL, at <http://mel.org> - is Michigan's "anytime, anywhere" library that provides Michigan residents and state employees with 24-hour, free access to excellent information resources, including full-text magazine, journal and newspaper articles - things you won't find in a traditional open-Web search!

The Library of Michigan is already helping our state save a great deal of money, by making the Michigan eLibrary available to Michigan's libraries. If every library in the state were to individually make the same MeL resources available to their patrons, it would collectively cost libraries close to \$200 million.

How Can You Use MeL to Find Full-Text Articles?

Point your Web browser to <http://mel.org> and then click on the "MeL Databases" link in the center of the page. If you don't have a particular magazine or journal in mind, choose "View MeL Databases by Subject" to narrow down your search. If you know exactly what you're looking for, choose "Electronic Journals List." From there you can search through the alphabetized list of titles. A list of databases in which your requested title is found will be returned to the screen. Since several databases may hold different time periods' worth of the same title, this will help you determine which database(s) to search.

Want to Widen the Scope?

Beyond the full-text articles you'll find in the MeL Databases section, consider broadening your search

to include:

- MeL Pathfinders: dozens of subject searches from agriculture and education to science and the environment;
- MeL Catalog (MeLCat): a place to search for and request books, videos and more from a growing list of participating Michigan libraries; and
- MeL Michigana, a growing collection of digitized historical resources from throughout Michigan and the Archives of Michigan image collections.



MeL is free to all Michigan residents. Access it from your local library or from home, work, school or office - anywhere you have an Internet connection. Your Michigan driver's license or state ID is your ticket to MeL (check out

the privacy policy online). MeL offers information on almost any topic: business, careers, law, social sciences, education, science and technology, literature and the arts, history and genealogy. The LearningExpressLibrary database even offers practice tests for civil service exams, online help for middle school skills, high school classes, the GED, the ACT and SAT exams, and grammar, vocabulary and writing.

For state employees in the Lansing area who don't currently have library cards from the Library of Michigan, consider getting one soon. As a Library of Michigan patron, you can search MeLCat and request lending items - books, videos, etc. - be delivered right here to the Library of Michigan and pick them up at your convenience.

Still Have Questions?

If you have specific questions or comments about MeL, contact Sheryl Mase, director of statewide services at the Library of Michigan, at smase@michigan.gov.

MeL is brought to the people of Michigan by the Library of Michigan and the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services.

FORE! Golf Outings Abound

Dust off your clubs and get ready to play a few rounds. Several golf outings are coming up:

5th Annual Valarie Russell and Special Olympics Golf Outing

*Friday, August 10
Lakeland Hills Golf Course
8:45 a.m. shotgun start*

Valarie Russell was a Personnel Management Assistant at the Cooper Street Correctional Facility (JCS). She was married and had one daughter. On June 5, 2003, Russell was tragically murdered. The daughter was left to reside with her grandparents, and has since lost her grandmother. The golf outing is in Russell's honor, with half of the proceeds going to support her daughter and half to Special Olympics Torch Run.

The outing is a four-person scramble and the cost is \$240 per team. It includes green fees, cart, food, water/soda and a \$28 donation to the Valarie Russell/Special Olympics Torch Run fund. There will be prizes for "longest drive," "closest to the pin," and more. Money is due by August 1. For more information contact Mike Stryzewski at (517) 780-5137, Tracy Crawford at (517) 780-5144, Kevin Lindsey at (517) 780-5635 or Kellie Dunnam at (517) 780-6012.

5th Annual Ric Goward Memorial Golf Scramble

*Friday, August 17
North Coast Golf Course
9 a.m. shotgun start*

Army Spc. Ric Goward was a C/O at the St. Louis Correctional Facility (SLF). He was killed in an accident in Iraq in 2003. The outing named in his honor is a four-person scramble and costs \$220 per team. This includes green fees, cart, and a steak dinner after the scramble. Prize money will be awarded to the 1st place team with random drawings scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd place teams. Other prizes will also be awarded. Proceeds

from the event will go to the Goward family, with a portion going to the Dylan Carl College Fund. For more information contact Gary Miniard (Pine River Correctional Facility – SPR) at (989) 681-6668, ext. 8220 or Ray Sholtz (SLF) at (989) 681-6444 and (989) 445-0082 - cell.

Michigan Chapter of the Association of Correctional Food Service Affiliates 7th Annual Golf & "Fun" Raiser

*Saturday, August 18
Whispering Pines Golf Course
10 a.m. shotgun start*

This two-person scramble is \$65 per person and includes green fees, cart, light lunch at the turn, a goodie bag, and a BBQ and pulled pork dinner at the end of the event. The 1st place team will receive a cash prize and the top two teams will receive trophies. A 50/50 drawing and additional prizes will also be available. Non-golfers are welcome to participate in the dinner portion of the day, for a nominal fee. Money is due by August 1. For more information, contact event chairman William Baraboll at (313) 377-5311 or Kevin O'Brien at Ryan Correctional Facility (RCF), (313) 368-3200, ext.1823.



F.Y.I. is a publication of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Office of Public Information and Communications.
We welcome your input! Contact us with your story ideas.

Editor: Lori Farmer